

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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State Parks Division



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 19, 2015**

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# Memorial Day Weekend Events at Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park

**Angel Fire, NM** –Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park is hosting a series of events for Memorial Day weekend as part of our ongoing tradition of honoring fallen veterans.

“Memorial Day weekend is a special time of healing and reflection at the park. Please honor all Veterans on this special weekend,” said State Parks Director Tommy Mutz.

### **Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Flag Retirement Ceremony 1-3 p.m.**

According to the protocols established in the United States Code, “When a U.S. Flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning. This year, Flag Retirement becomes a part of our Memorial Day Weekend. All attendees will be invited to participate in the ceremony and are encouraged to bring flags. If you will be unable to attend but have flags to retire they can be dropped off at the Memorial or Angel Fire Fire Station #1. The Flag Retirement Ceremony will be held northeast of the chapel at our fire pit. The area is ADA accessible.

#### **Candlelight Vigil 6 - 7p.m.**

This ceremony honors all our servicemen who didn't make it home and features the POW/MIA Ceremony. Members of Gold Star Wives of New Mexico will speak. Please dress in layers as the ceremony is planned for outside. The ceremony will be held in the amphitheater, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, it will be held inside the visitor center.

### **Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Flag Raising & Drum Songs – 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.**

Join us outside the visitor center as the Pueblo of Laguna Singers raise the flags and offer drum songs. This has become a highlight of Memorial Day for visitors. On Memorial Day, the flag is flown at half-staff until noon -- to both honor the sacrifices of those who gave their lives and to inspire those who continue in their stead. Following the flag raising the group will meet the flag as it's marched up the hill to the Memorial and escort it the rest of the way.

#### **Memorial Day Flag March 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

An inspirational event unfolds as the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 318 leads the way up the hill to the Memorial with a 40x60 foot American flag. The march begins at the intersection of

US 64 and NM 434 and volunteers are needed to help carry the flag. Children are welcome to help! Their height makes them ideal to walk directly under the flag and keep it from touching the ground. If you'd like to participate in the march please assemble at the intersection no later than 8:45 a.m. If you want to watch from the top of the hill, you must be in place by 9 a.m. before the New Mexico State Police block the highway for the march.

**44<sup>th</sup> Army Band Concert 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

The 44th Army Band's saxophone ensemble will be presenting a concert in the amphitheater. Bring lawn chairs, beach towels and blankets and prepare for a fun morning of music. The bagpiper will also be featured during the performance.

**Memorial Day Ceremony 11- Noon**

Keynote speaker Lewis Sorley, a former soldier and third-generation graduate of the United States Military Academy, will present *Pride & Sorrow: Reflections on the Vietnam War*. Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 318 will serve as the color guard and the New Mexico Veterans Motorcycle Association will help lead the pledge. Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park is partnering this year with the American Legion Riders Chapter 19 Post 90 from Los Alamos. Please feel free to bring lawn chairs, blankets and beach towels since seating is in the outdoor amphitheater.

Please call Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park at 575.377.2293 if you have questions.

For more information about this and all New Mexico State Park events, please visit [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com) .

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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

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